

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 008082  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /048 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY:JKB  
APPROVED BY EUR - REBARBOUR  
-----123233 120038Z /75

O 112340Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE  
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: STATEMENT ON ITALIAN SITUATION

1. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WILL BE RELEASED VERBATIM BY  
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, AT 'OON BRIEFING.  
EMBASSY ROME SHOULD TRANSLATE STATEMENT INTO ITALIAN FOR  
SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE:

2. QUOTE: AMBASSADOR GARDNER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON HAS

PROVIDED AN OCCASION FOR A GENERAL POLICY REVIEW WITH  
SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE  
IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE TOWARD WESTERN EUROPEAN  
COMMUNIST PARTIES, INCLUDING THAT OF ITALY, ALTHOUGH RECENT  
DEVELOPMENTS IN ITALY HAVE INCREASED THE LEVEL OF OUR  
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CONCERN. AS THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ADMINIS-  
TRATION HAVE PUBLICLY STATED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, OUR  
WESTERN EUROPEAN ALLIES ARE SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES AND,  
RIGHTLY AND PROPERLY, THE DECISION ON HOW THEY ARE GOVERNED  
RESTS WITH THEIR CITIZENS ALONE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE  
BELIEVE WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES TO  
EXPRESS OUR VIEWS CLEARLY.

ADMINISTRATION LEADERS HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED OUR VIEWS

ON THE ISSUE OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. OUR POSITION IS CLEAR: WE DO NOT FAVOR SUCH PARTICIPATION AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN ANY WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY REDUCED. AS WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST, WE BELIEVE THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS RESTS WITH THE EFFORTS OF DEMOCRATIC PARTIES TO MEET THE ASPIRATIONS OF THEIR PEOPLE FOR EFFECTIVE, JUST, AND COMPASSIONATE GOVERNMENT.

THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY SHARE PROFOUND DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND INTERESTS, AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNISTS SHARE THOSE VALUES AND INTERESTS.

AS THE PRESIDENT SAID IN PARIS LAST WEEK:

"IT IS PRECISELY WHEN DEMOCRACY IS UP AGAINST DIFFICULT CHALLENGES THAT ITS LEADERS MUST SHOW FIRMNESS IN RESISTING THE TEMPTATION OF FINDING SOLUTIONS IN NON-DEMOCRATIC FORCES." END QUOTE.

3. DECLASSIFY UPON RELEASE. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL STABILITY, PRESS SUMMARIES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** BMCKINLEY:JKB  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, PINT, IT, US  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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